1	LOUISIANA GAMING CONTROL BOARD MEETING
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6	MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021
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9	LASALLE BUILDING
10	LABELLE HEARING ROOM
11	617 NORTH 3RD STREET
12	BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
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16	TIME: 10:00 A.M.
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                           APPEARANCES
 2
     CHAIRMAN MICHAEL D. NOEL
     Chairman
 3
     Second Congressional District
     June 30, 2025
 4
     JULIE BERRY
 5
     (CPA)
     Third Congressional District
 6
     June 30, 2024
 7
     FRANCHESCA HAMILTON-ACKER
     (Attorney)
 8
     Third Congressional District
     June 30, 2026
 9
     HARRY AVANT
10
     (At-Large)
     Fourth Congressional District
11
     June 30, 2024
     CLAUDE D. JACKSON
12
     (At-Large)
13
     Fourth Congressional District
     June 30, 2021
14
     JULIE A. LEWIS
15
     (Investigative and Law Enforcement)
     Fifth Congressional District
16
     June 30, 2024
17
     NATALIE THURMAN
     Principal Assistant
18
     CAPTAIN PAT BRADLEY
19
     Louisiana State Police
20
     KEVIN RICHARD
     Department of Revenue
21
22
     REPORTED BY:
23
       KARLA H. MAYERS, CCR
       Baton Rouge Court Reporters, LLC
24
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25	IX. ADJOURNMENT54

1	I. CALL TO ORDER
2	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
3	All right. Good morning, everyone.
4	We'll go ahead and call the meeting to order.
5	Ms. Thurman, would you call roll, please?
6	MS. THURMAN:
7	Chairman Noel?
8	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
9	Here.
10	MS. THURMAN:
11	Mr. Avant?
12	MR. AVANT:
13	Here.
14	MS. THURMAN:
15	Ms. Berry?
16	MS. BERRY:
17	Here.
18	MS. THURMAN:
19	Mr. Jackson?
20	MR. JACKSON:
21	Here.
22	MS. THURMAN:
23	Mr. Lagasse?
24	(NO RESPONSE)
25	MS. THURMAN:

1			Ms. Lewis?
2		MS.	LEWIS:
3			Here.
4		MS.	THURMAN:
5			Mr. Poole?
6			(NO RESPONSE)
7		MS.	THURMAN:
8			Ms. Hamilton-Acker?
9		MS.	HAMILTON-ACKER:
10			Present.
11		MS.	THURMAN:
12			Mr. West?
13			(NO RESPONSE)
14		MS.	THURMAN:
15			Colonol Davis?
16		MR.	BRADLEY:
17			Captain Pat Bradley for Colonel
18	Davis.		
19		MS.	THURMAN:
20			And Secretary Robinson?
21		MR.	RICHARD:
22			Kevin Richard representing Secretary
23	Robinson.		
24		MS.	THURMAN:
25			We have a quorum.

1	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
2	Thank you.
3	II. PUBLIC COMMENTS:
4	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
5	At this time I'll ask if there's any
6	public comment on any matter before the Board
7	today.
8	(NO RESPONSE)
9	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
10	All right. Nobody popped up.
11	III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
12	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
13	So we'll go ahead and move to the
14	next agenda item, Approval of Minutes. I would
15	ask for a motion to waive reading and approve the
16	minutes of the April 2021 meeting.
17	MR. AVANT:
18	So moved.
19	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
20	Mr. Avant. Second?
21	MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:
22	Second.
23	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
24	Seconded by Ms. Hamilton-Acker. All
25	in favor?

1	(COLLECTIVE "AYE")
2	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
3	Any opposed?
4	(NO RESPONSE)
5	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
6	No opposition. Motion carries.
7	Thank you.
8	IV. REVENUE REPORTS
9	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
10	And, next, as usual, we'll move to
11	Revenue Reports. Ms. Jackson?
12	MS. JACKSON:
13	Good morning, Chairman Noel and Board
14	Members. My name is Donna Jackson with Louisiana
15	State Police Gaming Enforcement Division. Before
16	I start, I just wanted to mention that in your
17	chart folders, I've included a copy of my script,
18	which is cross-referenced to the revenue report
19	itself, numerically and color-coded. Hopefully,
20	that will make it a little bit easier to follow,
21	because I know I cover a lot of numbers.
22	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
23	Thank you.
24	MS. JACKSON:
25	As we all recall, gaming licensees

generated no revenue last April due to COVID closures. For your reference, I've included an additional chart in your folder which shows a three-year comparison of admissions, revenues, and state fees to show how this year compares to the year prior to COVID.

During April, the 13 operating riverboats generated adjusted gross receipts of \$175,825,387. Golden Nugget generated its highest month ever at almost \$31.8 million, while L'Auberge Lake Charles generated \$31.6 million. The State collected fees totaling \$37.8 million.

Adjusted gross receipts for fiscal year 2021 to date are almost \$1,286,000,000, an increase of \$21.5 million, or 2 percent, from fiscal year 2020 but a decrease of \$266 million, or 17 percent, from fiscal year 2019.

As of April 30, 2021, the State collected \$276.4 million in fees for fiscal year 2021.

On page 2, you will see the riverboat revenue broken down by regional market. All markets reflect an increase from the revenues generated in March 2021, for a total increase of \$7.6 million, or 4.5 percent.

Next is a summary of the April 2021 gaming activity for Harrah's New Orleans, found on page 3. Harrah's generated \$25,080,878 in gross gaming revenue during April. These revenues represent an increase from last month of \$2.6 million, or 11.7 percent. During April, the State received \$4,931,507 in minimum daily payments.

Adjusted gross receipts for fiscal year 2021 to date are \$161.8 million, a decrease of almost \$43 million, or 21 percent, from fiscal year 2020 and a decrease of \$80.8 million, or 33 percent, from fiscal year 2019. As of April 30, 2021, the State collected approximately \$50 million in fees for fiscal year 2021.

Next, I will present the revenues for slots at the racetracks, found on page 4. During April, the four racetrack facilities combined generated adjusted gross receipts of \$34,943,223, an increase of approximately \$500,000, or 1.6 percent, from March 2021. During April, the State collected \$5.3 million dollars in fees.

Adjusted gross receipts for fiscal year 2021 to date are approximately \$257 million, an increase of \$16.9 million, or 7 percent, from fiscal year 2020 and a decrease of \$36 million, or

12 percent, from fiscal year 2019. 1 2 April 30, 2021, the State has collected 3 \$39 million in fees for fiscal year 2021. 4 I will now move to the video gaming 5 information. There are currently 12,701 video 6 gaming devices activated at 1,551 locations. 7 Net device revenue for April 2021 was \$84.7 million, a slight increase of \$18,000 when 8 9 compared to March 2021, making this month's 10 revenue the highest month ever. Total franchise fees collected during April 2021 were 11 12 \$25.7 million. 13 Net device revenue for fiscal year 14 2021 to date is \$616.8 million, an increase of 15 \$173 million, or 40 percent, when compared to 16 fiscal year 2020 and an increase of \$110 million, 17 or 22 percent, when compared to fiscal year 2019. 18 Total franchise fees collected for 19 fiscal year 2021 to date are \$187.6 million, an 20 increase of \$54.5 million, or 41 percent, when 21 compared to fiscal year 2020. 22 As you can see on the bottom of the 23 three-year April recap, the chart that has the 24 blue, yellow, and green columns, -- at the bottom

we have the recap -- admissions for the three

1	casino venues are down a total of 20.4 percent
2	from April 2019. Revenues for all four types of
3	gaming combined total \$320.5 million, up
4	27.5 percent, while fees are up 30.2 percent.
5	Are there any questions?
6	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
7	Do we have any questions for
8	Ms. Jackson?
9	(NO RESPONSE)
10	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
11	No questions. Thank you.
12	MS. JACKSON:
13	Thank you.
14	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
15	Appreciate it.
16	V. COMPLIANCE REPORTS
17	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
18	All right. Next up on the agenda, we
19	have Compliance Reports from the AG's Office.
20	Thank you.
21	MR. PICOU:
22	Good morning, Chairman Noel, Members
23	of the Board. I'm Assistant Attorney General
24	Charlie Picou. Today I'll present the staff
25	reports on riverboat and racetrack casino

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licensees' compliance with employment procurement 1 2 conditions for the first quarter of 2021. 3 begin with the riverboats. These reports were 4 taken from figures reported by the 15 operating 5 riverboats to the Louisiana Gaming Control Board. 6 In the first quarter of 2021, approximately 7,999 7 people were employed by the riverboat industry. Of that number, 7,850 were Louisiana residents; 8 9 4,773 were minorities; 4,369 were women. 10 Next, I will address employment. 11 Fourteen licensees did not meet their total 12 employment goals, and they are: Diamond Jacks 13 Casino & Resort, which achieved 42 out of a goal 14 of 650; Sam's Town Hotel & Casino, which achieved 15 371 out of a goal of 700; Golden Nugget 16 Lake Charles, which achieved 1,455 out of a goal 17 of 1,500; Louisiana -- L'Auberge Baton Rouge, 18 which achieved 648 out of a goal of 800; 19 Horseshoe Casino & Hotel, which achieved 644 out 20 of a goal of 1,000; Boomtown New Orleans, which 21 achieved 392 out of a goal of 555; Belle of 22 Baton Rouge Casino, which achieved 154 out of a

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goal of 450; Treasure Chest Casino, which achieved

309 out of a goal of 500; Hollywood Casino, which

achieved 280 out of a goal of 450; Amelia Belle,

1 which achieved 163 out of a goal of 325; Isle of 2 Capri Casino & Hotel, which achieved 556 out of a 3 goal of 650; Boomtown Casino Bossier, which 4 achieved 268 out of a goal of 650; Eldorado 5 Casino, which achieved 523 out of a goal of 950; and L'Auberge Lake Charles, which achieved 1,478 6 7 out of a goal of 1,500. 8 All licensees, except Belle of Baton 9 Rouge and Treasure Chest Casino, either met or 10 exceeded their goals in all of the subcategories 11 under the main category of employment. 12 51.3 percent of Belle of Baton Rouge's employment 13 were women -- employees were women. They have a 14 goal of 51.8 percent. 44 percent of Treasure 15 Chest Casino's employees were women. They have a 16 goal of 51.86 percent. 17 Next, I'll address procurement. The 18 licensees are grouped according to three 19 subcategories, which appear in your report. 20

licensees are grouped according to three subcategories, which appear in your report. These subcategories are Louisiana, minority, and female procurement. Under Louisiana procurement, six licensees did not achieve compliance with its voluntary conditions. Those licensees are:

Treasure Chest Casino, which achieved 71.9 percent out of a goal of 75 percent; Hollywood Casino,

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which achieved 74.3 percent out of a goal of 80 percent; Amelia Belle Casino, which achieved 54.4 percent out of a goal of 80 percent; Isle of Capri Casino & Hotel, which achieved 47.6 percent out of a goal of 60 percent; Margaritaville Resort Casino, which achieved 88.5 percent out of a goal of 90 percent; Eldorado Resort Casino, which achieved 58.3 percent out of a goal of 60 percent.

Under the subcategory of minority procurement, six licensees did not achieve compliance with their voluntary conditions, and those licensees are: Diamond Jack's Casino, which achieved 0 percent out of a goal of 10 percent; Sam's Town Casino & Hotel -- or Hotel & Casino, which achieved 7.3 percent out of a goal of 25 percent; Horseshoe Casino & Hotel, which achieved 9.4 percent out of a goal of 35 percent; Amelia Bell Casino, which achieved 24.1 percent out of a goal of 30 percent; Isle of Capri Casino & Hotel, which achieved 1.3 percent out of a goal of 10 percent; and Eldorado Resort Casino, which achieved 16.2 percent out of a goal of 25 percent.

Under the subcategory of female procurement, two licensees did not achieve compliance with their voluntary conditions, and

1 those licensees are: Horseshoe Casino & Hotel, 2 which achieved 14.5 out of a goal of 35 percent; 3 and Isle of Capri Casino & Hotel, which achieved 4 2.6 percent out of a goal of 10 percent. 5 Are there any questions regarding 6 riverboats? 7 CHAIRMAN NOEL: 8 Any questions for Mr. Picou? 9 (NO RESPONSE) 10 MR. PICOU: 11 I'll now move on to racetracks. Tn 12 the first quarter of 2021, approximately 1,014 13 people were employed by the racetrack industry. 14 Of that number, 822 were Louisiana residents, 506 15 were minorities, 579 were women. Two Racetrack 16 casinos achieved total compliance this quarter, 17 Evangeline Downs and Fair Grounds. Delta Downs 18 did not achieve its Louisiana employment 19 It achieved 57.2 percent out of the 80 condition. 20 percent condition. And Louisiana Downs also did 2.1 not achieve its female employment condition. Ιt 22 achieved 57.5 percent out of the 60 percent 23 condition. 2.4 Are there any questions regarding 25 racetracks?

1	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
2	Questions? Any questions?
3	(NO RESPONSE)
4	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
5	Thank you.
6	MR. PICOU:
7	Thank you.
8	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
9	Hopefully, as we see the second
10	quarter numbers later on this summer, hopefully
11	we'll see a trend in the positive. I know most of
12	the properties were still, during that first
13	quarter, impacted by occupancy restrictions and
14	capacity restrictions. So we'll hopefully see
15	I know it's been a difficult road to fill some of
16	these vacancies.
17	MR. PICOU:
18	Right. And a lot of them are still
19	feeling the effects of COVID-19, and hopefully
20	we'll see an upward trend next quarter.
21	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
22	Thank you.
23	MR. PICOU:
24	Thank you.
25	VI. CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT WITH COURT REPORTER

1	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
2	Next item up is Consideration of
3	Contract with Court Reporter.
4	MS. PAROLA:
5	Mr. Chairman?
6	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
7	Yes, ma'am.
8	MS. PAROLA:
9	Could I ask if you would reopen for
10	public comments before you vote on that agenda
11	item? I got caught behind an accident, and I
12	would like to speak to the board before you vote
13	on it.
14	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
15	You can, if you would like to come
16	up.
17	MS. PAROLA:
18	Okay. Good morning,
19	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
20	Good morning.
21	MS. PAROLA:
22	everybody, Board Members,
23	Chairman. So I'm I have to state my name, I'm
24	sure, for the record. I'm Shelley Parola. I'm a
25	freelance court reporter in Louisiana. I want to

speak to you about the vote that's going to take place on the renewal of the contract.

So it pretty much looks like the same contract that you've voted on forever, because I've been here a long, long time, and we pretty much don't change anything. It just goes through on a vote. But there are differences in the contract, three.

There is a page increase. There is also an appearance fee that's added, which really, to be honest, in the totality of the contract, doesn't matter, because you guys allot a certain amount of money for the contract, and we never come close to billing it. My only point in bringing this up is I've been here for years. We try to calculate at least 10 to be conservative, but probably more like 15, and have never asked for a page increase or any -- anything. That's one.

But the third and most important thing to me is that if the contract is renewed the way it is set for you to vote on, I am banned, or prohibited, for the next year, until I can rebid, from participating in covering any of Gaming here or at the other hearing office. Okay. So that's

one.

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2 Secondly -- and I -- I wrote up this 3 because I was advised by counsel to do this. 4 board meeting, we postponed the vote on the 5 contract renewal for a reason. I put it in here. 6 I'm supposed to be nonemotional and very precise. 7 If it isn't clear to you, I'll I tried to be. 8 answer any questions. But Baton Rouge Court 9 Reporters, who I work through -- I'm an 10 independent contractor, but I run my clients, or 11 contracts, through -- through that office. 12 just the way we do it, and we had them, in name 13 only, be the contract because they had a tax ID 14 number.

For tax purposes -- I used to have a firm, 18 court reporters, but for tax purposes, I don't have it anymore, and they said, "Just get rid of the corporation. You don't need to file two, and let's use their tax ID number. It's just easier." So that's why we did it that way.

Renewal came up this year, and Baton Rouge Court Reporters said, "Because of COVID and we've lost a lot of people, we just don't have the number of reporters to cover the contract. So we would prefer if you put it in your name only, and

we will help you if we can, but we don't have the number of reporters to do it." They've taken jobs with the State. They've gone elsewhere. So, okay, that's what -- that's why we moved the vote, or the renewal.

So I went and did what I was told to do, become a vendor again, did I need to get a tax ID number or not, and I didn't, and everything was set. And the week before last, not last week but the week before, I left an e-mail for Ms. Thurman and said, "I got all this stuff done. How do you want to handle it," because in the prior years, it really was just Ms. Tramonte sent an e-mail, we changed the dates, and we resubmitted the contract. Okay. So that's one point.

But going forward, I'm getting ready to submit the new bid, and I get a call from -- one second. I'm supposed to do this (indicating) if I get a little emotional. I get a call from Ms. Tramonte, which, I'm sure, with all due respect, Mr. Chairman, you knew this was going on. I mean, I don't think anything in the office would go on without counsel and you knowing.

I got a call that said, "We've decided to take the bid with Baton Rouge Court

1 Reporters, and this is the way we're going to go." 2 Baton Rouge Court Reporters did not submit a bid 3 at all. Actually, your office, again, 4 respectfully, almost solicited a bid from them. 5 That, I don't know if I have any 6 legal standing on at all. I don't know. I mean, 7 I have an attorney. He can't be here today, 8 because this was Friday. It took a day to 9 process, and he has court. If he walks in the 10 door, I will jump up and down. I don't think 11 he'll make it in time. 12 But when that happened, that's --13 that's a legal issue that somebody else can, you 14 know, arque about. But what I want to arque is I 15 then wasn't allowed to submit a bid, period. So, 16 I mean, I feel that's in violation of the law. 17 And so I -- I wanted to submit just 18 this, because I was advised to write it down 19 rather than air it all in front of the board and 20 take up too much time. I tried to do a timeline 21 of what just happened from last board meeting to 22 this board meeting, but it's only according to me. 23 So it's only me who -- this is what happened -- I 24 was informed of or dealt with. 25 And so I don't know if I'm even

allowed to ask this, but I'm going to ask two things. And then, legally, I'm sure Ms. Smith can tell if I can even ask this, because I've never had an objection to the contract.

So, first, I would like to ask a member of the board, if they can, to make a motion to allow me a week to have counsel submit a bid. And I know you get to decide whatever you want with the bids. And I have read the law, and I thought it was the lowest bid, and it is not. It's whatever you think will benefit your -- your responsibilities and procedures to do your job with the State and the people. I read that. I didn't know that. That's one.

And if we can't make a motion that way, then I would like to say to every board member, when item 5 comes up on the agenda, you all get a vote. That's why you're here, to represent -- you know, I know a lot of times -- I think people think everybody goes with the chairman. You have your reasons for what happened and what's on the agenda, but you guys have a vote.

All I'm asking for is, if you vote yes on the contract renewal, you are banning me

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1	for at least a year; if you vote no, I don't even
2	know what will happen, because I don't know the
3	protocol. Everybody I've asked, nobody knows, no
4	one. But if you vote no, maybe there's a chance
5	that I can submit a bid.
6	So it's been great working with you.
7	Thank you for your time. And that's it.
8	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
9	Thank you, Shelley.
10	MS. PAROLA:
11	Okay.
12	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
13	And, look, I don't I'm not aware
14	that you will be banned. I'm not so and
15	MS. PAROLA:
16	That's what I was told.
17	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
18	So, you know, if you have these legal
19	concerns, you know, we have ample representation
20	through the Attorney General's Office.
21	MS. PAROLA:
22	Sure.
23	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
24	We can you know, they can
25	spearhead any discussions.

1	MS. PAROLA:
2	Sure. May I just give this to you to
3	look
4	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
5	Yeah, if you want to leave it right
6	here on the end of the table there.
7	MS. PAROLA:
8	Here or up here?
9	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
10	Right there.
11	MS. PAROLA:
12	Okay.
13	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
14	Thank you, Shelley.
15	MS. PAROLA:
16	Yeah. I just wanted the board I
17	mean, it's not very detailed. It's just what
18	happened and why we were changing the name. So
19	that's it. All right. Thank you.
20	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
21	Thank you, Shelley.
22	MS. PAROLA:
23	Thank you.
24	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
25	So, Board Members, we are at that

1 item on the agenda, the renewal of court reporter 2 contract. Just to hit a few points, and we can 3 decide the course of action, but the contract 4 terms are essentially the same except for a few 5 minor tweaks to the page amounts. The max kept on 6 the contract is \$70,000, which is consistent with 7 what it's been for several years. 8 We can -- unless you have some 9 questions, we can either make a decision on it, or 10 we can postpone it till next month and perhaps 11 give the AG's Office an opportunity to speak with 12 Ms. Parola and her attorney to clarify some of 13 these issues, because I do think there are some 14 things that do need to be clarified. And I don't 15 know that we necessarily need to get into all the 16 details here. 17 MS. BERRY: 18 I'd like to move that we postpone the 19 I really don't understand the entire 20 situation. 2.1 MS. HAMILTON-ACKER: 22 I'll second. 23 MS. BERRY: 2.4 And I'm just -- I would like to 25 understand more about what's going on and get our

legal ramifications straight so that -- I don't 1 2 want to hurt anybody one way or the other. I just 3 think postponing this would be good. 4 CHAIRMAN NOEL: 5 Thank you. We have a motion by 6 Ms. Berry to postpone this agenda item until 7 Seconded by -- well, several seconds -- by Ms. Hamilton-Acker. All in favor? 8 9 (COLLECTIVE "AYE") 10 CHAIRMAN NOEL: 11 Any opposed? 12 (NO RESPONSE) 13 CHAIRMAN NOEL: 14 No opposition. So we'll move that 15 item on the agenda till next month. 16 VII. VIDEO GAMING ISSUES A. Consideration of Transfer of Interest in the 17 18 following truckstop: 19 1. A.N. Collette Oil Company, Inc. d/b/a 20 Grand Bayou Casino - No. 2401508817 21 CHAIRMAN NOEL: 22 Okay. Next up, Video Gaming Issues. 23 We have Consideration of Transfer of Interest in 24 the following truckstop: A.N. Collette Oil 25 Company, Incorporated, doing business as

1 Grand Bayou Casino, No. 2401508817. We have 2 someone from the Attorney General's Office and the 3 State Police. 4 MR. PITRE: 5 Chairman Noel, Board Members, I am 6 Assistant Attorney General Earl Pitre, Jr., 7 appearing before the board in the matter of the 8 transfer of ownership interest in A.N. Collette 9 Oil Company, Incorporated, doing business as 10 Grand Bayou Casino. 11 On November 13, 2020, Ronald A. 12 Collette died. At the time of his death 13 Mr. Collette held a 50.25 percent ownership 14 interest in A.N. Collette Oil Company, 15 Incorporated. Mr. Collette bequeathed his 50.25 16 percent ownership interest in the licensee to his 17 son, Dustin J. Collette. 18 Criminal Investigator Glenn Verrett 19 conducted the suitability investigations on the 20 associated persons associated with licensing and 2.1 conducted an investigation of the transfer of 22 ownership interest. He will present the Office of 23 State Police's findings to the Board. 2.4 MR. VERRETT: 25 Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Board

I'm Investigator Glenn Verrett from the 1 Members. 2 Gaming Enforcement Division. I investigated the 3 transfer of ownership interest that occurred on 4 the licensee. I conducted suitability 5 investigations on Nicole Collette and the updated 6 suitability checks on Dustin Collette, Brenda 7 Collette, Toni Cockerham, and Dana Quebedeaux. found no information that would preclude them from 8 9 participating in the video gaming industry. 10 found no information that would preclude the 11 continuing licensing of A.N. Collette Oil Company, 12 Inc., doing business as Grand Bayou Casino. MR. PITRE: 13 14 The Office of Attorney General has 15 reviewed the file compiled as a result of the 16 investigation conducted by the Office of State Police. Our review indicates that no information 17 18 has been found which would preclude approval of 19 the transfer. 20 CHAIRMAN NOEL: 21 Thank you. Any questions for State 22 Police or the AG's Office? 23 (NO RESPONSE) 2.4 CHAIRMAN NOEL: 25 All right. No questions. Then

1	motion to approve the transfer of interest?
2	MR. AVANT:
3	So moved.
4	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
5	Mr. Avant.
6	MS. BERRY:
7	Second.
8	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
9	Seconded by Ms. Berry. All in favor?
10	(COLLECTIVE "AYE")
11	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
12	Any opposed?
13	(NO RESPONSE)
14	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
15	No opposition. The motion carries.
16	Thank you.
17	VIII. CASINO GAMING ISSUES
18	1. Eldorado Casino Shreveport Joint Venture
19	d/b/a Eldorado Resort Casino Shreveport -
20	No. R013600009
21	CHAIRMAN NOEL:
22	Next up, we have Casino Gaming
23	Issues. And back in, I believe, December, when we
24	approved the transfer for Eldorado, I know some of
25	the some of the board members were interested

30 to hear back from Eldorado after several months of 1 2 So we have the General Manager for 3 Eldorado Shreveport and, I think, another 4 representative from Bally's, Mr. Rolansky. 5 MR. ROLANSKY: 6 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Members of 7 Good morning. Thank you for having us the Board. As the chairman just mentioned, the Board 8 9 approved the transfer of interest by which Bally's 10 subsidiaries acquired the Eldorado Shreveport Casino back in December, and at that meeting, at 11 12 least one of the board members, -- I think 13 Mr. Avant and others -- may have said -- suggested 14 to come and give a report after some period of

With me today are Paul Avery, General Manager of Eldorado Resort Casino Shreveport, along with Todd Raziano, who is the Regional General Manager and Vice President of Bally's Corporation.

operations, and that's -- that's what's happening

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today.

The acquisition closed on

December 23, and Bally's through subsidiaries, has
been operating that property since that time. So

I'll turn it over to Mr. Avery, who, I think, will

1 begin. 2 MR. AVERY: 3 Thank you. 4 CHAIRMAN NOEL: 5 Good morning. 6 MR. AVERY: 7 Good morning, Chairman. 8 morning, Members of the Board. We mentioned in 9 December -- we had our general counsel with us at 10 the time -- how excited we were to be able to 11 purchase the property of Eldorado but also enter 12 the state of Louisiana. And four months later, 13 that excitement is exceeded. We have had numerous 14 visits by our corporate officers, and the 15 excitement about the potential of that market and 16 that property is at a high level. 17 So what I wanted to walk through with 18 you is kind of give you an update. There was no 19 set, formal request on what you wanted to know 20 about; so I was just going to kind of go through, 21 in chronological order, what we've done since 22 we've taken ownership on December 22. 23 Our company, Bally's, has four 24 pillars of things we live by, clean, safe, 25 friendly, and fun. So the first thing we wanted

to do was look at those four things and address what we needed to address.

From a clean standpoint -- well, I should say, clean and safe are the two most important things. You can't even compete in business in any aspect, not alone casinos, without being both clean and safe; so those were the two things we wanted to focus on.

Internally, as you walk into the property, it's an elegant-looking, very classy property, beautiful. Very little, if any, needed to be -- to do to keep -- to make that clean.

So to get focused on the exterior, the approach as you come into Downtown Shreveport and you come to our property, we're going back to Shreveport after this meeting and meeting with a landscaper architect, and we're planning to redo the whole front entrance from our -- from a landscape standpoint to create a better sense of entrance, to make it more attractive. We have implemented things like pressure washing the exterior and just trying to make the place look clean on the outside to match the elegant look that's already on the inside.

From a safety standpoint, we try to

promote safety. It's very important for our guests to feel safe, and it's simple things.

We've gone into the parking garage and just turned all the lights on that were -- you know, there were probably 20 percent of the lights were off.

We've just lit up the hotel. We've lit up the front entrances. We're changing lights from regular lights to LED to make them brighter just to give a sense of safety as players come to our property wanting to game.

Friendly, I cannot tell you how impressed we are with the team members that were already there, just -- just a friendly, friendly team. I will say, with COVID, -- and we'll talk about the challenges later with labor stretched to the max, working six days a week, and it's hard to put on a happy face every day as you're trying to cover shifts as the businesses come back. But the labor hasn't necessarily come back to support the business and try to take care of the guests to the level we believe they should be taken care of.

And fun, I think we mentioned that also, that we're a marketing-driven company. We believe in marketing. We do not believe in cutting away to even up a profit line. And we

have turned marketing on from the very first day that we could touch it, which was in January. Since then, we've expanded offers. We've increased gift giveaways. We've increased the reinvestment. We've reached out to players who were not being mailed to and invited them back to experience.

The other thing we wanted to do was to tell people we were open for business within the recommendations of the CDC and this regulatory body and what we could do from a COVID-restricted guideline, but we've increased the -- the table game operations to go back to 24 hours on the weekend.

We've expanded our steakhouse. We've opened two additional restaurants in the space that the buffet was. We cannot operate a buffet right now with COVID. We have two restaurants that we've built in its place. We've opened a spa. We've offered touchless room service. No one is walking in. It's almost like Uber Eats but from a property standpoint where you order the food and we'll bring it up to you. And we've also reopened the Celebrity Lounge, more of a sports bar right now, as dancing is still

prohibited, but reopened it nonetheless to just give a sense of energy on the floor.

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Capital. So to support marketing, which was our original -- we want to push marketing. We spent \$2 million in computer conversions and upgrades to the property so far so that we can thus do these marketing initiatives that I've described above.

As you know, Twin River, after the announcement of the sale but before it was approved, changed the name to Bally, and we are now a Bally corporation, and so we are in the middle of a rebrand. We have begun receiving artwork for our chips and dice and cards and seeking approval through the Louisiana State Police on that artwork and subsequent gaming equipment. So we anticipate being able to rebrand to a Bally's Shreveport Casino & Hotel name in the It is pending when we can get the chips back from manufacturers and things of that nature, and, obviously, the approval from LSP. So we'll be spending millions on that, as we have to change the exterior signage. We have to change all the signage on the interior.

Other capital we're in the middle of

is the master plan of the property. We've engaged with an architect designer. Again, I mentioned the corporate offices, the top people, came down to the property and see so much potential, they said, "Let's engage an architect. Let's figure out where we want to put restaurants."

We're not really -- we're interested in taking care of the customers, but we want to see restaurants be a driver. We want new people to come in. So we're in discussions with national name brand restaurants to come in and locate within our four walls of the casino.

We have also addressed the casino floor in the process. We're designing a high limit area. Currently, the higher level players play in the general casino. We want to try to build their own area to game in, that we feel like that's a segment of our database that's underserved. We're building a mini baccarat pit. We've already purchased equipment. Tables are out. We think that is a segment of operation that is underserved.

Poker, actually, we reopened that, I forgot to mention. It's been phenomenal for us, very strong business levels. We had all our

1 tables occupied Saturday night when we -- when I 2 was in the casino, every table in our poker room, 3 but we only have eight tables; so we're relocating 4 poker to the third floor, designing a room, 5 expanding poker, hoping to bring in tournaments -national tournaments that come across, and take 7 advantage of that.

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And, lastly, but certainly not least, we're keeping an eye on what the Legislature does from a regulatory standpoint -- or from a legislative standpoint on Sportsbook. And then -and our master planning is to build not only Sportsbook but a Sportsbook restaurant and a lounge to go with it that is to be branded under the Bally name.

So that is the capital plan so far. It is in full gear. I will say some of the challenges we've had. We're five months in now next week. The winter storm was devastating. kind of put a halt to things. We actually had to close the doors for five days, as we lost water. We spent over -- we spent well over \$100,000 in repairs and probably lost over a million in revenue during those five days.

And labor. Staff at the time of

acquisition was 474. You heard the announcement through April. We're up to -- I think we're -- it was at 520-something at the end of April. We're just near 600 now. We continue to hire. So we've increased labor 27 percent in the last four months from when we inherited it. We hope to continue to grow it.

The challenge is -- we find is individuals wanting to come and work. We've held job fairs onsite. And, historically, I'm told, we would have 200 people in attendance out there. We had 30, and we held it over two days. We've attended job fairs in the city. So I would say that is our biggest challenge right now is trying to find enough staff to support the business that we have been able to bring back. And that's kind of where we are.

I'm actually -- certainly open to any questions or if Todd has anything to add.

MR. RAZIANO:

Paul, thank you. Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board. I just had to reiterate what Paul said. Our company is in the midst of a fairly large transformation. You know, when -- back in December, the company was called

Twin River. And as they've grown, they acquired the iconic Bally's name. And they have really focused on generating value with that name to be one of the most recognized casino companies in the country. And you may have been reading they are acquiring companies that will expand their ability to operate sports betting, high gaming eventually in markets where that is.

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The idea -- and they use the word "omnichannel." The idea is that in this industry, we want the Bally name to be pervasive. It's -- it's an entertainment/media company is what they're trying to transform it to. We want to deliver a quality experience in brick and mortar casinos. We want to deliver state-of-the-art online interactions throughout the country, again, where we're authorized. And even -- you may have seen some of the regional Fox sports channels are now labeled Bally's Sports Channel.

And so as they build this brand and invest this brand -- into this brand, it creates this expectation among the customers that this is a quality brand. And when we come back to the properties, we want to be able to deliver on that. As Paul mentioned, the Eldorado property in

general is a fantastic property. It's very well appointed. You know, it has the type of amenities that our company looks to develop to grow business, to bring more people into the state, into the property. And building this nationwide brand, we feel, is going to serve the properties in each jurisdiction very well.

I can tell you that, you know, the corporate leaders of Bally's are very excited about the property in Shreveport. Paul mentioned that we've hired a design firm to start doing master planning. You know, what do we do with all this fantastic space? What's the best use of it? How can we continue to deliver a great customer experience, grow the experience, cater to the guests, generate employment?

And that's what, I think, in these first five months -- as we know, these things take a little time to develop. But, as Paul mentioned, and I think Paul and his team have done a great job with moving the needle forward in a short time with a few challenges along the way, we fully expect that we're just going to continue to make the property more appealing and a property that the State is going to be proud to have.

1	So we really appreciate the					
2	opportunity to come and speak with you all, to					
3	give you a little insight as to how we're looking					
4	at this thing, what we've done, and where we think					
5	we're going to go from here. And, again, thank					
6	you. Thank you for taking us this morning.					
7	CHAIRMAN NOEL:					
8	Thank you. I appreciate the update.					
9	Any questions from the board members?					
10	(NO RESPONSE)					
11	CHAIRMAN NOEL:					
12	All right. Again, appreciate it.					
13	I'm very I'm very pleased to hear of the					
14	progress that you're making but also understand					
15	some of the challenges, too, that affect the					
16	industry as a whole. So thank you very much.					
17	MR. AVERY:					
18	Thank you for the opportunity. We					
19	appreciate it.					
20	THE COURT REPORTER:					
21	Excuse me. Can I get your name?					
22	MR. ROLANSKY:					
23	Yeah. I'm sorry. I didn't introduce					
24	myself for the record. Mr. Chairman,					
25	Larry Rolansky representing Eldorado Casino joint					

1	venture.					
2	THE COURT REPORTER:					
3	Spell your last name, please.					
4	MR. ROLANSKY:					
5	R-o-l-a-n-s-k-y.					
6	THE COURT REPORTER:					
7	Thank you.					
8	MR. ROLANSKY:					
9	Thank you.					
10	CHAIRMAN NOEL:					
11	Thank you.					
12	-					
	2. Consideration of Certificate of Compliance					
13	for the Alternate Riverboat Inspection of the					
14	gaming vessel of Catfish Queen Partnership in					
15	Commendam d/b/a Belle of Baton Rouge -					
16	No. R011700009					
17	MR. CHAIRMAN:					
18	All right. No. 2 under Casino Gaming					
19	Issues is Consideration of Certificate of					
20	Compliance for the Alternate Riverboat Inspection					
21	of the gaming vessel Catfish Queen Partnership in					
22	Commendam, doing business as Belle of Baton Rouge,					
23	No. R011700009.					
24	MS. LANDRY:					
25	Good morning, Chairman Noel and Board					

1 Members. I am Assistant Attorney General 2 Lisha Landry. With me is Mr. John Reinert of ABSG 3 Consulting. We're here in the matter of the 4 issuance of a temporary Certificate of Compliance 5 to Catfish Queen Partnership in Commendam, doing 6 business as Belle of Baton Rouge Casino. 7 On March 2, 2021, ABSG began the 8 inspection process for the approval of Belle of 9 Baton Rouge Casino's annual Certificate of 10 Compliance. Belle of Baton Rouge is requesting 11 extension of time to resolve a discrepancy noted 12 by ABSG during its initial inspection that remains 13 outstanding. 14 Mr. Reinert will now provide the 15 details on ABSG's inspection. 16 MR. REINERT: 17 Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Board 18 Members. I am John Reinert from ABS Consulting 19 here to report the annual certification for Belle 20 of Baton Rouge Casino. The inspector Doug Chapman 2.1 and Pete Bullard did, on March 2, attend the 22 riverboat Argosy III to conduct the annual 23 inspection in accordance with the Alternative 24 Inspection Program. 25 The inspectors reviewed fire

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protection and lifesaving equipment, egress routes, mooring systems, and conducted a fire drill. There were deficiencies noted during the annual inspection, and a follow-up was conducted on April 26. The deficiencies were cleared at the time except for the fire pump. The fire pump remains yellow tagged by the service vendor. A yellow tag means the condition is not an immediate hazard but has potential of failure. The 2021 annual survey, as required by Louisiana Gaming Control Board, is not considered complete until the fire pump is fully operational.

MS. LANDRY:

We now present these findings to the Board and request that upon the Board accepting the report submitted by ABSG, you will move for the issuance of a temporary certificate of compliance to Belle of Baton Rouge, which expires on June 30, 2021.

CHAIRMAN NOEL:

Thank you. And it's my understanding that the Belle is in the process of making the necessary repairs?

MR. REINERT:

The fire pump is operational, but

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     it's not at 100 percent, Mr. Chairman, and the
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     vendor is -- it needs to be tested, basically;
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     so . . .
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                MS. LANDRY:
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                    It's my understanding that we have
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     representatives from the licensee who can answer
 7
     questions regarding the status of the discrepancy.
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                CHAIRMAN NOEL:
 9
                    Do we have any questions for the
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     Belle? Ms. Berry?
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                MS. BERRY:
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                    I would like to understand.
                                                   It's
13
     being repaired, or it's not being repaired, or you
14
     said it needs to be tested?
15
                MR. REINERT:
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                             It's yellow tagged, meaning
                    Right.
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     that it -- it's not at 100 percent, but it is
18
     working but they need to retest it to find out if
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     it will make the 100 percent.
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                MS. BERRY:
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                    So why -- well, if they're going to
22
     retest it, what do they do in the meantime to
23
     change it?
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                MR. REINERT:
25
                    Well, in the meantime, it is
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1	operational.				
2	MS. BERRY:				
3	Oh, I understand.				
4	MR. REINERT:				
5	But it just doesn't make the 100				
6	it doesn't make the capacity that it's supposed to				
7	be making.				
8	MS. BERRY:				
9	Okay.				
10	MR. REINERT:				
11	And there's you've got the as				
12	you know, the fire plan on the Belle, they have a				
13	service tank for their sprinkler systems. So				
14	there are redundancies. So we feel that that's				
15	having the extension will give them time to get				
16	this tested and the deficiency passed.				
17	MR. AVANT:				
18	So they have until June 30?				
19	CHAIRMAN NOEL:				
20	If we if we				
21	MS. LANDRY:				
22	If				
23	CHAIRMAN NOEL:				
24	approve the temporary.				
25	MS. LANDRY:				

1 Yes. It's my understanding that 2 this -- the fire pump situation should be resolved 3 by the end of the month, but that's something that 4 the Belle would have to address to the Board 5 directly, which I believe they're in the audience 6 right now. 7 CHAIRMAN NOEL: 8 Ms. Nathalie? 9 MS. GUILLORY: 10 Good morning, Chairman Noel --11 CHAIRMAN NOEL: 12 Good morning. 13 MS. GUILLORY: 14 -- and Board Members. My name is 15 Nathalie Guillory. I'm Director of Compliance to 16 the Belle. I have with me our captain, 17 Mr. Danny Jones, who can elaborate a little bit 18 more. 19 MR. JONES: 20 Good morning, Chairman, Board 21 Members. As they stated, the pump is actually for 22 our sprinkler system. The vendor classifies them 23 all as fire pumps, but it actually supplies the 24 sprinkler system on the boat. There is a 25 500-gallon tank that -- the way the system is

designed to work, it will -- if a sprinkler head 1 2 is activated, that tank supplies the water in the 3 unit for at least four minutes according to the 4 specs for the system, and then the pump would back 5 that up, and the pump is working more than enough, 6 90 percent efficiency. 7 CHAIRMAN NOEL: 8 Any other questions? Mr. Jackson? 9 MR. JACKSON: 10 I have one. 11 CHAIRMAN NOEL: 12 Can you pull your mic to you? 13 MR. JACKSON: 14 When will the 30-day time frame 15 start? 16 MS. LANDRY: 17 It's going to start -- the additional 18 30 days starts upon the expiration of the current 19 So they'll have until June 20 -- June 30 20 of next month, but the board meeting is on 21 June 17. So they would have to have all 22 discrepancies completed before the June meeting. 23 MR. JACKSON: 24 And so they haven't asked for an 25 extension or anything?

1	MS. LANDRY:				
2	Say that again.				
3	MR. JACKSON:				
4	Have they asked for an extension?				
5	MS. LANDRY:				
6	It's my understanding that they have,				
7	that they put in a request to ABSG.				
8	CHAIRMAN NOEL:				
9	Yeah. The current the current				
10	permit will expire at the end of this month; so				
11	since we don't meet again and, traditionally,				
12	this is what we've done in cases like this, is				
13	give a 30-day temporary; so they'll come back next				
14	month and show that everything has been repaired				
15	and is working properly.				
16	MR. JACKSON:				
17	Okay.				
18	CHAIRMAN NOEL:				
19	All right. No other questions?				
20	(NO RESPONSE)				
21	MS. BERRY:				
22	Make a motion on extension?				
23	CHAIRMAN NOEL:				
24	I believe have you finished your				
25	presentation, though?				

1	MS. LANDRY:					
2	Yes, sir.					
3	CHAIRMAN NOEL:					
4	Yes. We will need a motion to issue					
5	a temporary certificate of compliance, which will					
6	expire again on June 30, 2021.					
7	MR. AVANT:					
8	Motion.					
9	CHAIRMAN NOEL:					
10	Ms. Berry, second. Mr. Avant. All					
11	in favor say aye.					
12	(COLLECTIVE "AYE")					
13	MS. GUILLORY:					
14	Thank you, Chairman and Board					
15	members.					
16	3. Consideration of the Certificate of					
17	Compliance for the Alternate Riverboat					
18	Inspection of the gaming vessel of PNK (Lake					
19	Charles), LLC d/b/a L'Auberge Lake Charles -					
20	No. R011001707					
21	CHAIRMAN NOEL:					
22	All right. Next up is Consideration					
23	for Certificate of Compliance for the Alternate					
24	Riverboat Inspection of the gaming vessel					
25	PNK Lake Charles, LLC doing business as L'Auberge					

1 Lake Charles, No. R011001707. 2 MS. LANDRY: 3 Assistant Attorney General 4 Lisha Landry and John Reinert of ABSG Consulting 5 now here in the matter of the issuance of a 6 temporary Certificate of Compliance to PNK (Lake 7 Charles), LLC doing business as L'Auberge Lake 8 Charles Casino. 9 On April 13, 2021, ABSG began the 10 inspection process for the approval of L'Auberge 11 Casino's annual Certificate of Compliance. 12 L'Auberge is requesting an extension of time to 13 resolve discrepancies noted by ABSG during the 14 initial inspection. Mr. Reinert will provide the 15 details on that inspection. 16 MR. REINERT: 17 Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Board 18 Members. I am John Reinert from ABSG Consulting 19 here to report the annual certification for 20 L'Auberge Lake Charles Casino. The inspectors 2.1 Doug Chapman and Pet Bullard did, on April 13, 22 attend the L'Auberge Lake Charles Casino to 23 conduct the annual inspection in accordance with 24 the Alternative Inspection Program.

The Surveyors reviewed fire

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protection equipment, lifesaving equipment, egress routes, and emergency lighting. There were deficiencies noted that were considered life safety issues. They include the fire screen door and emergency lighting. It was reported to us that all deficiencies are corrected, and we have scheduled a follow-up inspection on May 24.

The 2021 annual survey, as required by the Louisiana Gaming Control Board, is not considered complete, as the corrective lifesaving deficiencies need to be verified before the certificate can be issued.

MS. LANDRY:

So we now present these findings to the board and request that upon the board accepting the report submitted by ABSG, you will move for an issuance of a temporary certificate of compliance to the Belle -- I mean, I'm sorry, to L'Auberge Casino, which will expire on June 30, 2021.

CHAIRMAN NOEL:

Thank you. Just to clarify, you did mention it's being repaired. ABS just needs to go out and verify that --

MR. REINERT:

,						
1	Correct.					
2	CHAIRMAN NOEL:					
3	the repairs have been made?					
4	MR. REINERT:					
5	Correct. And that's scheduled for					
6	the 24th of May.					
7	CHAIRMAN NOEL:					
8	Okay. Any other questions from the					
9	board?					
10	(NO RESPONSE)					
11	CHAIRMAN NOEL:					
12	Okay. Motion to issue a temporary					
13	certificate of compliance, which will expire					
14	June 30, 2021.					
15	MR. JACKSON:					
16	Move to approve.					
17	MS. LEWIS:					
18	Second.					
19	CHAIRMAN NOEL:					
20	Motion by Mr. Jackson. Seconded by					
21	Ms. Lewis. All in favor say aye.					
22	(COLLECTIVE "AYE")					
23	CHAIRMAN NOEL:					
24	Any opposed?					
25	(NO RESPONSE)					

1	CHAIRMAN NOEL:					
2	No opposition. The motion carries.					
3	Thank you.					
4	IX. ADJOURNMENT					
5	CHAIRMAN NOEL:					
6	All right. So is there a motion to					
7	adjourn? Motion to adjourn?					
8	MS. HAMILTON-ACKER:					
9	So moved.					
10	MR. AVANT:					
11	Second.					
12	CHAIRMAN NOEL:					
13	Motion by Ms. Hamilton-Acker.					
14	Seconded by Mr. Avant. All in favor say aye.					
15	(COLLECTIVE "AYE")					
16	CHAIRMAN NOEL:					
17	Any opposed?					
18	(NO RESPONSE)					
19	CHAIRMAN NOEL:					
20	We're adjourned.					
21	(PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED AT 10:51 A.M.)					
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

J

/

I, Karla H. Mayers, a Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings held at this Louisiana Gaming Control Board meeting on the 17th day of May, 2021, as set forth in the forgoing 54 pages.

I further certify that said testimony was reported by me in the Stenotype reporting method, was prepared and transcribed by me or under my direction to the best of my ability and understanding.

I further certify that the transcript has been prepared in compliance with transcript format guidelines required by statute or by rules of the board and that I have been informed about the complete arrangement, financial or otherwise, with the person or entity making arrangements for deposition services.

I further certify that I have acted in compliance with the prohibition on contractual relationships, as defined by Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure Article 1434 and in rules and advisory opinions of the board.

I further certify that I am not an attorney or counsel for any of the parties, that I am neither related to nor employed by any attorney or counsel connected with this action, and that I have no financial interest in the outcome of this matter.

This certification is valid only for this transcript accompanied by my original signature and original raised seal on this page.

Karla H. Mayers, CCR